

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 28

Introduced by Assembly Member Ma
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Fletcher)

February 19, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 28—Relative to Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 28, as amended, Ma. Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

This measure would recognize the ~~week~~ *weeks* of February 22 through February 28, 2009, *and February 21 through February 27, 2010*, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week and would encourage citizens and policymakers to learn more about eating disorders and the obstacles to treatment, and to help people overcome and prevent these life-threatening diseases. This measure also would urge the State Department of Public Health to undertake specified studies relating to eating disorders and make necessary or appropriate ~~recommendation~~ *recommendations* for legislation.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Ten million women and one million men across
- 2 the country are battling illnesses such as anorexia and bulimia,
- 3 and millions more are suffering from binge eating disorder; and
- 4 WHEREAS, An estimated 3.6 million women in California
- 5 alone struggle with an eating disorder; and

1 WHEREAS, Anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive overeating are
2 problems that are misunderstood, stigmatized, ~~underfunded~~, and
3 undertreated; and

4 WHEREAS, Anorexia is the psychiatric disorder with the highest
5 mortality rate; and

6 WHEREAS, Anorexia is linked to an 18-fold increase in the
7 risk of death, with up to 20 percent of sufferers dying of
8 malnutrition and suicide; and

9 WHEREAS, Eating disorders are associated with substantial
10 psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse,
11 and suicide; and

12 WHEREAS, Eating disorders can lead to major medical
13 complications, including cardiac arrhythmia, cognitive impairment,
14 certain cancers, osteoporosis, infertility, kidney failure, and death;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Eating disorders affect persons of every race, color,
17 gender, and socioeconomic category; and

18 WHEREAS, Eating disorders are increasing among younger
19 age groups and affect children as young as seven years of age; and

20 WHEREAS, Media pressures and genetic, social, and familial
21 factors are all known to be related to eating disorders; and

22 WHEREAS, ~~Many doctors feel pressured to~~ *Some physicians*
23 ~~prematurely discharge patients with anorexia nervosa, placing~~
24 ~~patients in life-threatening situations, because many insurance~~
25 ~~companies disallow or limit reimbursements for treating eating~~
26 ~~disorders; and~~

27 ~~WHEREAS, Many insurance companies continue to make a~~
28 ~~common practice of delaying care, which leads to more severe~~
29 ~~symptoms at admission, and prematurely terminating treatment of~~
30 ~~eating disorders, even though these factors are linked to high rates~~
31 ~~of relapse; and~~ *due to limited opportunities to obtain*
32 *reimbursement; and*

33 *WHEREAS, Coverage and reimbursement for eating disorders*
34 *differ among various private and public health care coverage*
35 *options; and*

36 WHEREAS, Eating disorders are treatable when diagnosed early
37 and treated sufficiently; and

38 WHEREAS, Eating disorders have become a *significant* public
39 ~~health crisis concern~~ that should be treated ~~as seriously as the~~
40 ~~obesity epidemic~~ *no less seriously than obesity*; and

1 WHEREAS, The government should take a proactive role in
2 developing preventive education, improving access to care for all
3 forms of eating disorders, including binge eating and extreme
4 dieting, and making treatment available for persons already
5 suffering with eating disorders; and dieting; and

6 WHEREAS, The California Legislature is concerned with
7 preserving and protecting the health of the state's citizens; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
10 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the week weeks
11 of February 22 through February 28, 2009, and February 21
12 through February 27, 2010, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week,
13 and encourages citizens and policymakers to learn more about
14 eating disorders and the obstacles to treatment, and to help people
15 overcome and prevent these life-threatening diseases; and be it
16 further

17 *Resolved*, That the State Department of Public Health is urged
18 to undertake a study of the public health impact of eating disorders
19 in California, and the need for programs or policies to enhance
20 education, awareness, detection, and prevention of these diseases
21 in the general population; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the State Department of Public Health is urged
23 to undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems
24 mentioned in this resolution, or related thereto, and recommend
25 any necessary or appropriate legislation; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
27 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.